13 June 1997

Dear Member of the Press.

Carl Sagan awakened multitudes to the preciousness and fragility of our small planet and the wonders of life in the cosmos. He believed that a society based on science and high technology, such as ours, could only hope to remain a democracy so long as its people had the tools to be informed decision makers. However it was the romance and drama of the universe as revealed by science that fired his passion to communicate.

When asked why he was such an energetic "popularizer", he would smile and say simply, "When you're in love you want to tell the whole world."

It was his ability to fully engage both the heart and the brain that gave his work such extraordinary impact. I think you'll find that quality in the two books enclosed: Billions and Billions, his final work of non-fiction, and his novel, CONTACT. I very much hope this summer you'll have a chance to see Jodie Foster's unforgettable performance in the powerful and thought provoking motion picture that Robert Zemeckis has made of Carl's novel. Although Carl is no longer alive, I think his voice is as badly needed as ever and his vision will continue to illuminate and inspire.

With enormous pride in Carl's life,

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